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Wisbech Rural District Council

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.

N. CASSELLS,
M.B. Ch.B, C P.H.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:—

The Chairman (Mr. A. H. Humphrey, J. P.) The Vice -
Chairman (Mr. R. Payne) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—

Medical Officer of Health —

N. CASSELLS, M.B., CH.B., C.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor —

T. A. C. MARCH, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor —

A. P. GRANT, M.S.I.A.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

At the end of each year it behoves the Medical Officer of Health to submit a report to you on the Public Health and Welfare in the Rural District of Wisbech, as you realise I have been responsible as Medical Officer of Health to your district for the last quarter of 1953 only, but I should like herein to publicly acknowledge my sincere gratitude to Mr. Dixon, your Clerk, and Mr. March your Sanitary Inspector, for all their assistance so generously given subsequent to my appointment to your district, my thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their consideration, interest and encouragement during my term of office.

It has probably been unprecedented in this district that you have had three Medical Officers of Health in one year; both my predecessors wish to extend their thanks to you for your assistance in the past.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of district	49,841
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1953	12,280
Estimated mid-year population for 1952.....	12,270
Estimated mid-year population for 1951.....	12,290
Rateable value 1st April, 1953.....	£32,069
Rateable value 1st April, 1952.....	£32,069
Product of a penny rate.....	£133:19:9.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	3945
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952)....	3868

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Including environmental and Hygiene conditions, the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment:- This is an agricultural community, mainly concerned with fruit growing and market gardening, with little change in the ebb and flow of the resident population from year to year, but a seasonal increase of floating population during the fruit picking season.

The extent of unemployment is negligible and there again there is a seasonal period of unemployment extending from about December to February.

A relatively high proportion of each family is engaged in an earning capacity, in comparison with the nation as a whole - many of the housewives of the area and older children, though still of school age are employed as part-time workers on the land, often to the detriment of the welfare of the family units as a whole, and also to the detriment of the education of the children in particular.

As shown by the vital statistics, it would seem abundantly clear that it is a healthy and thriving population with a high birth rate and a comparatively low death rate.

As regards the environmental health of the community, I am sorry to say that for several reasons the Council have been unable to proceed with the main sewerage scheme for the district, this, however, will undoubtedly have to be incorporated in the future policy of the Council, particularly in view of the fact that an adequate disposal of sewage and effluent is of necessity a knotty problem peculiar to a low lying area as this.



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VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS 232

	M	F	<u>Birth Rate</u> <u>Wisbech Rural</u> <u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
Total	108	124			
Legitimate	101	119	20.21	16.99	15.5
Illegitimate	7	5			

Area comparability Factor (Births) 1.07
(Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1953 population)

STILL BIRTHS 6

	M	F	<u>Still Birth Rate</u> <u>Wisbech Rural</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
Total	2	4			
Legitimate	1	3	25.27	24.04	22.4
Illegitimate	1	1			

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS (all causes)

Total	M	F	<u>Death Rate</u> <u>Wisbech Rural</u> <u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
105	64	41	8.38	11.55	11.4

Area comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.98
(Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1952 population)

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - Nil

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age

	M	F	<u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate</u> <u>Wisbech Rural</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
Total 2	2	0			
Legitimate	2	0	8.62	17.97	26.8
Illegitimate	0	0			

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births

VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks of age

	M	F	<u>Rate Wisbech Rural per 1,000 live births</u>
Total 1	1	0	
Legitimate	1	0	4.3
Illegitimate	0	0	

DEATHS from Cancer all ages - 16

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk - A.R. Marsh, Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road,

Cambridge - Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr.J.B. Ewen.

(a) GENERAL

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (11) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (111) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (1V) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.

(b) MATERNITY

- (1) County Maternity Home, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (11) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS

- (1) Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.

(d) SANATORIA

- (1) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (11) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.
- (111) Papworth Hospitals.

(e) MENTAL

- (1) Fulbourne Hospital, Cambridge.
- (11) Little Plumstead, Norwich.
- (111) Risebridge Home, W. Suffolk.
- (1V) St. Andrews Hospital, Norwich.
- (V) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.

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C
A
B
C
Mrs. J.B.D. Benson,
8, Bungalow,
Gosmoor Lane,
E L M.
(Fridaybridge 246)

S.C.M.

Midwifery only.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (continued)

(f) VENEREAL DISEASE

- (1) Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.
- (11) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (111) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council, either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the parishes given all those undertaking midwifery and general nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and Pethedine and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

E L M, UPWELL AND OUTWELL

Miss. G.A. Webster,
Halfpenny Lane,
E L M,
(Wisbech 1806)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

Relief Midwife,
General Nursing,
Public Health Nursing.
School Nurse.

Miss. J. Parrott,
10, Crown Avenue,
CHRISTCHURCH.
(Christchurch 280)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

Relief Midwife.
General Nursing.
Public Health Nursing.
School Nurse.

WISBECH ST. MARY AND PARSON DROVE

Mrs. A.L. Guiver,
"Pitsdale",
LEVERINGTON.
(Wisbech St. Mary 244)

S.R.N.
S.C.M.

Midwifery only.

Miss. M.E. Joynt,
Nursos House,
Church Road,
WISBECH ST. MARY.
(Wisbech St. Mary 249)

S.C.M.
H.V. Cert.
Q.N.

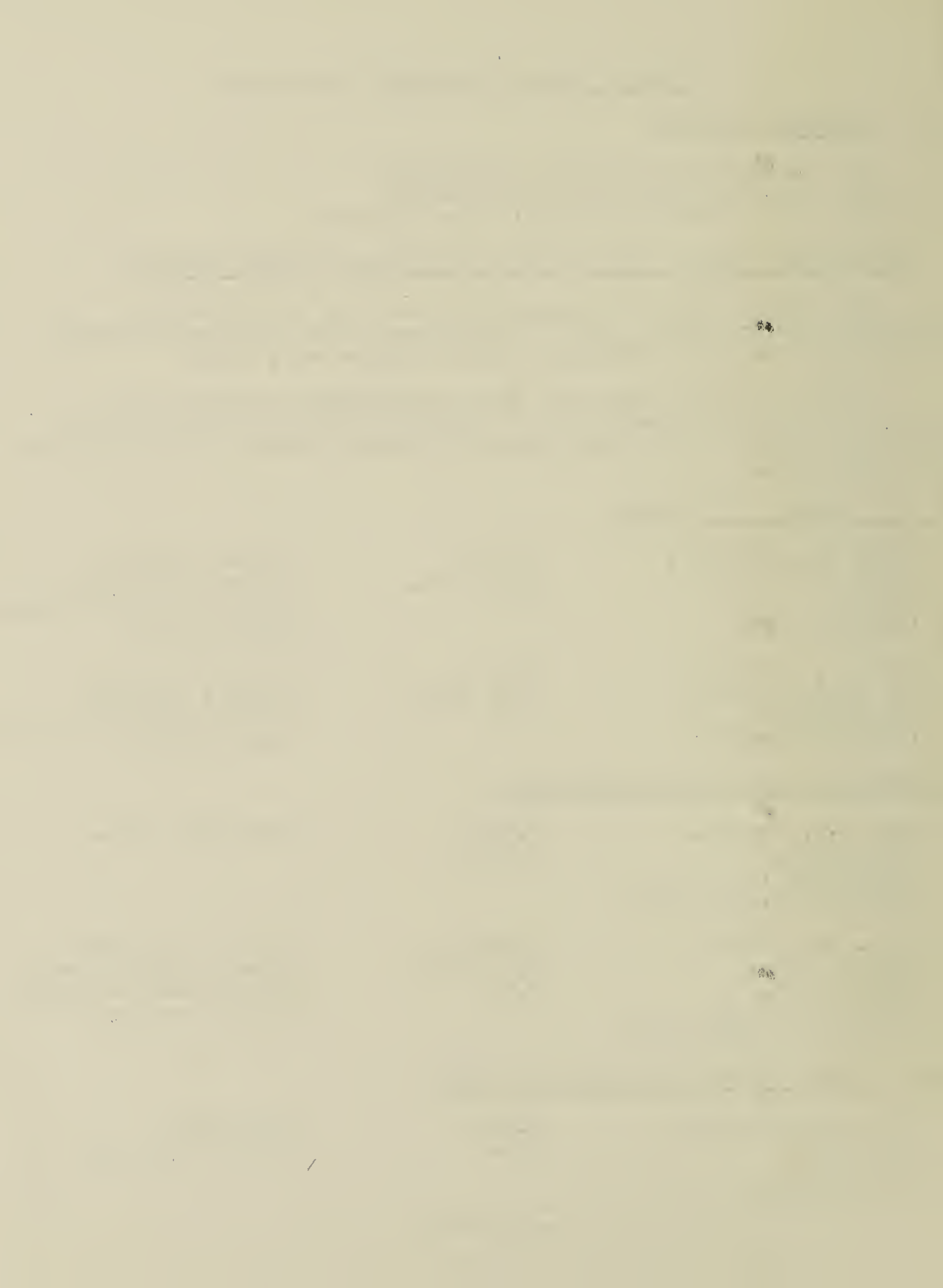
Wisbech St. Mary -
General Nursing only.
Parson Drove - Public
Health Nursing.

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON AND TYDD ST. GILES

Miss. E.M. Burdett,
High Road,
GOREFIELD,
Nr. Wisbech.

S.C.M.
Q.N.

Midwifery.
General Nursing.



Miss. E.T. Taylor,
Leigh Bank,
Leverington Road,
Wisboch.

S.R.N.
S.C.M.

Health Visitor, Public
Health Nursing in the
Parishes not covered.
School Nurse for all
these parishes.

Miss. G. White,
10, Crown Avenue,
CHRISTCHURCH.
(Christchurch 280)

S.R.N.
Part I Mid.Cert.
H.V. Cert.

Tuberculosis Health
Visitor.

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

A County Council Service. There are three ambulances garaged at Messrs. Denniss Transport, Sutton Road, Leverington, and also at this garage, one Infectious Disease ambulance.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

Infant Welfare Centres

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (a) Wisbech (Walsoken Parish Hall) | Friday |
| (b) Guyhirn (Village Hall) | 3rd Thursday |
| (c) Parson Drove (Church Hall) | 1st Wednesday |
| (d) Leverington (Church Hall)
(Commenced December 1952) | 2nd Tuesday |
| (e) Fridaybridge (Village Hall)
(Commenced August 1953) | 4th Wednesday |

School Minor Ailment Clinics

- (a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

School Dental Clinic

- (a) Lynn Road, Wisbech.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Premises - by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Staff.
Bedding, clothing etc., which cannot be dealt with by this department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Services

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge.
(Director - Dr. Fry)
- (b) Public Analyst,
S. Groenburgh, P.H.D.B.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
25, St. Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Control & Notifications thereof:-)

NOTIFICATIONS

Dysentery	9
Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Meningococcal Infection	0
Scarlet Fever	25
Whooping Cough	29
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	4
Smallpox	0
Measles	392
Pneumonia	5
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	0
Non-Paralytic	0
Food Poisoning	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Tuberculosis (all forms)	12
Malaria	2
Infective Jaundice	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Child's year	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	44' - 48'	
of Birth	9	87	12	6	2	29	Total 145

"Booster" injections - 100

SONNE DYSENTERY

A minor epidemic of Sonne Dysentery involving infants and adults in the Leverington area, occurred during the months' of, June, July and August.

SCARLET FEVER

A minor epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred in the parishes of Upwell in both Wisbech & Marshland Rural District Council, during the months' of, March, June, July, September, October, November and December.

HOUSING

Number of houses completed during 1953:-

Council Houses	38	
Bungalows	<u>30</u>	Private 17.
	<u>68</u>	

Number of houses under construction at the end of 1953:-

Council Houses	62	
Bungalows	<u>10</u>	Private 7.
	<u>72</u>	

UNFIT HOUSES

There are still approximately 565 unfit houses in the district inhabited by about 2,500 persons.

During the year Demolition Orders were made on 7 cottages, and undertakings given by owners not to re-let in respect of 2 cottages.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSE REFUSE

A fortnightly collection of refuse was made during the year, and deposited at the following tips:-

Roman Bank, Leverington.
Ringers Lane, Leverington.

Tholomas Drove, Wisbech St. Mary.
Seadyke, Murrow.

WATER SUPPLY

Extension of water mains carried out during the period March 1953-1954 amounting in total to 1678 yards as compared with 14819 yards shown for the period March 1952-1953.

During the period March 1953-1954, 144 new connections were made, and 4 new hydrants installed as compared with 328 new connections and 35 new hydrants installed in the year 1952-1953.

Regular samples both chemical and bacteriological were taken at three points, namely, Marham, Foul Anchor, Tydd and Fridaybridge Tower, Fridaybridge, showing water to be of the highest standard of bacterial purity and is pure and wholesome in character.

Figures kindly supplied by J.K. Dawson, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer to Wisbech & District Water Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (continued)

FRUIT PICKERS BUNKS

During the fruit picking season, a fairly large influx of fruit pickers come into the district, the main body of these is housed in fruit pickers bunks, which the fruit growers provide and maintain near the orchards. The fruit pickers bunks are situated in the following parishes:-

LEVERINGTON NEWTON E L M FRIDAYBRIDGE.

The conditions prevailing in these camps are governed by the Council's Byelaws, covering the accommodation of the pickers.

SEWAGE PUMPS

The Council's Housing Sites at Leverington, Gorefield, Tydd St. Giles, Wisbech St. Mary, Guyhirn, Murrow, Tower Road, Fridaybridge, Church Road, Fridaybridge, Upwell, Outwell and Gosmoor Lane, are provided with Sewage Pumps and Filters, the maintenance of these is under the control of the Sanitary Inspector, inspections are carried out upon all plants weekly, thus ensuring efficient running and operation.

I have the honour to be Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

Nubse Cassells
M.B., C.H.B., C.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I

CAUSES OF DEATH 1953

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	0	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	13	23
Coronary disease, angina	11	5	16
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	10	5	15
Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
Influenza	2	0	2
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	0	0	0
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	64	41	105

TABLE II

NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1953

Age Period (years)		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	5	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
6	15	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
16	25	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
26	35	--	1	--	2	--	--	--	--
36	45	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
46	55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
56	65	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
65	x								
Totals		1	6	--	5	--	--	--	--

TABLE III

FACTORIES ACT. 1937 & 1948Part I of the Act.

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Promises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspect ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prs'ctd (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	82	92			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	36	42			2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	-				3
Total		118	134			

FACTORIES ACTS. 1937 & 1948 (continued)

2.-Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found Remed Referred				Pros ecut ed. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
			ied. (4)	To H.M. Inspect (5)	By H.M. Inspect (6)		
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1				9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act. (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
Total	60	1	1				60

To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 of the Factories Acts. 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities compare their lists of Factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)). Institutions (Section 104) and sites of building operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108)

